

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. -- 10. Canceled.

11. (currently amended) A coater for preparing coated retroreflective particles, comprising:
- a disc having a periphery and a major surface;
 - a motor engaging the disc so as to be able to spin the disc;
 - a restrictor mounted adjacent to the disc so as to provide a gap for the egress of coated particles, wherein the restrictor has a portion having a frusto-conical shape so that the height of the space between the disc and the restrictor diminishes with radial distance from the center of the disc and further wherein the restrictor includes a flange portion extending from the frusto-conical shape substantially parallel to the major surface of the disc;
 - a first dispenser for dispensing a mixture of sand particles and polymeric resin, the first dispenser disposed above the disc; and
 - a second dispenser for dispensing glass beads, the second dispenser disposed above the disc[.]] ;

wherein the surface of the disc comprises a material with a high coefficient of friction relative to the particles; and further wherein
wherein the material with a high coefficient of friction is polymeric foam.

12. -- 20. Canceled.

21. (new) A coater for spin coating particles comprising:
- a rotating disc having a surface that engages the particles;
 - a barrier disposed adjacent the disc surface; and
 - a gap created between the barrier and the disc surface, the gap including:
 - a first inner portion that decreases linearly with the radius of the disc; and

a second outer portion substantially parallel to the disc, the second portion disposed near the perimeter of the disc, wherein the gap is lined with polymeric foam having a high coefficient of friction.